(iv) In order to address the needs of the one crore poorest of the poor families, the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) is being implemented in all parts of the country under which foodgrains are issued at the highly subsidized price of Rs. 2 per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg. for rice.

(v) Foodgrains are also being allocated under various Welfare Schemes like the Mid-Day Meal Scheme and Annapurna Scheme.

(vi) Financial empowerment through provision of gainful employment is a major vehicle for ensuring food security, as it enable the family to purchase its requirements from the open market. The Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) provides both wage employment and foodgrains in rural areas. In urban areas, schemes such as the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) are under implementation for providing self-employment and wage-employment to the urban poor.

Indian fishermen captured by Pakistan Marine Security Agency

*324. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian fishermen and boats captured by the Pakistan Marine Security Agency and since when they have been captured; and

(b) the action taken by his Ministry to get the fishermen released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) As per available information, Pakistan has 360 Indian fishermen and 58 boats in its custody, which were apprehended by Pakistan Marine Security Agency since January, 2002.

(b) Government have repeatedly taken up the issue of their release and repatriation with the Government of Pakistan. As a result, 281 fishermen have been granted consular access. The issue of grant of consular access to the remaining fishermen and the early release of all the fishermen has been repeatedly pursued with the Government of Pakistan.